Session 5: Cross-Cutting Issues **Topic: Class-Based Approaches**

Agencies Engaged: EPA, ATSDR, DoD

Current state of the science:

- *Evolving definition of what constitutes a PFAS, but continued progress in capturing the scope and breadth of the PFAS landscape.*
- *Emerging consensus on the need to use class-based approaches to inform decisions on PFAS due to the number of PFAS in commerce and the environment.*
- *Multiple class-based approaches have been proposed based on structural considerations as well as various properties (e.g., persistence, mobility, bioaccumulation), exposure, and effects.*
- *Many class-based approaches rely on subjective definitions of class membership thereby limiting consistent and reproducible application.*
- *For human health endpoints within EPA, PFAS analogs and/or groups are typically identified based on a combination of chain-length and functional group.*
    - *The number of PFAS analog and/or groups and the associated divisions are dependent on the availability of toxicity data (or lack thereof).*

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What is likely to be known in the near future:

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Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

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Remaining Data Gaps:

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- Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)